

REMARKS

The present Amendment adds an Abstract of the Disclosure on a separate sheet and modifies the claim format only so as to eliminate the use of multiple dependency.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith.

The examination and allowance of the Application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated December 21, 2001

Marked-up Claims 3 to 8

3. (Amended) A method according to the claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the successive increase of the width of that part which is passed through the processing plant is preceded by an initial interval with an essentially constant width, and that the successive increase of the width of that part which is passed through the processing plant occurs through at least two monotonously growing phases with an intermediate interval with an essentially constant width, preferably through three or more monotonously growing phases with intermediate intervals with essentially constant widths.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, [2 or 3,] for threading a material web through a processing plant, in which the material web, in alternating directions, passes through two or more decks, characterized in that the length of the intermediate interval or intervals exceeds the length of the material web located in an individual deck, but that the length of the intermediate interval or intervals preferably is smaller than twice the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the length of at least one monotonously growing phase is smaller than the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

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Marked-up Claims 3 to 8

6. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim
1, characterized in that the length of each of two or more monotonously growing phases,
preferably the first phases, is smaller than the length of the material web located in an
individual deck.

7. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim
1, characterized in that the width of the first part during the initial interval is 50-200 mm,
preferably about 100 mm.

8. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim
1, characterized in that the width of the first part during one or more monotonously
growing phases is increased by a factor 2 to 5.

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